Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06735 041739Z

71
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 SCEM-02 COME-00 EB-11 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 /176 W
---------- 026964
R 041715Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3848
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6735

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR TS
SUBJECT: MASMOUDI TRAVELS TO TRIPOLI AND ROME

REF: ROME 13396, CAIRO 3769

1. LOCAL PRESS OF DEC 4 REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI DEPARTED TUNIS FOR TRIPOLI ON DEC 3 CARRYING A "PERSONAL MESSAGE" TO PRESIDENT QADHAFI FROM PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT PRES BOURGUIBA SPOKE BY TELEPHONE ON DEC 2 WITH PRES QADHAFI TO INFORM HIM OF MASMOUDI'S ARRIVAL. FINALLY, PAPERS NOTE THAT MASMOUDI WILL BE TRAVELING TO ROME FOLLOWING HIS "BRIEF VISIT" TO TRIPOLI.

2. IN A DEPARTURE STATEMENT MASMOUDI INDICATED THAT IN ADDITION TO CONSULTATIONS WITH PRES QADHAFI CONCERNING "THE PRESENT DELICATE STAGE" HE WOULD ALSO CONVEY "OUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONTACTS WE HAD DURING THE ALGIERS CONFERENCE." IN THIS REGAD MASMOUDI NOTED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06735 041739Z

THAT PALESTINIAN, SYRIAN AND EVEN EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

"HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN ORDER TO KNOW THE
POSITION OF LIBYA."

3. COMMENT:OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS BOURGUIBA
AND MASMOUDI HAVE APPARENTLY CONVICED THEMSELVES THAT
THEY ARE IN A POSTION TO INFLUENCE QUADHAFI. IN VIEW OF
THIS "SPECIAL POSITION," IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE ALGIERS
CONFERENCE AGREED TO A TUNISIAN INITIATIVE WITH QADHAFI
AT A TIME WHAN THE LATTER HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY
ISOLATED IN THE ARAB WORLD AND PARTICULARLY FROM
EGYPT. MASMOUDI'S TRIP TO ROME IS ALSO SEEN HERE AS
FOLOWING FROM THE DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE TO DESPATCH
ARAB LEADERS TO EUROPE IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THEIR NEWLY
PROMULAGATED POSITIONS. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS PERHAPS
WORTH REMEMBERING THE ITALIAN "MAILMAN"ROLE IN THE
ABORTIVE BOURGUIBA INITIATIVE OF LAST SUMMER (ROME
6014). IN ANY EVENT BILATERAL EVENTS WILL CERTAINLY BE DIS-
CUSSED INCLUDING TUNISIAN HOPES FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT
IN THE CURRENT EEC NEGOTIATIONS.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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